

Matthewis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center

Keeping Ulster County
History Alive!



2014

Tour Season Schedule & Special Events

Tours, Exhibits, Events & More!

Michael P. Hein, Ulster County Executive
Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk

Matthewis Persen House Museum & Cultural Heritage Center

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History Alive!

Hours of Operation

May 24 – August 30:

Tuesday through Friday 10am - 4pm
& Saturdays 9 - 3pm

September 6 – November 22:

Saturdays Only 10am – 2pm
or by Appointment



Take a self-guided tour or join one of
our knowledgeable museum docents
for a personal tour.

The Persen House can also
accommodate large groups. Please
call to schedule a special group tour!

For more information or to schedule a tour, please
contact Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk at
(845) 340-3040

About the House



The Matthewis Persen House is one of Ulster County's oldest, most significant buildings.

Named after its longest residing owner, Matthewis Persen (1739-1819), the House is located within Kingston's Stockade National Historic District. Its earliest portions date from c.1661 and it is one of four landmark buildings on each corner of John and Crown Streets. This is the only intersection in the United States with pre-revolutionary stone houses on all four corners.

The Persen House has been the home of doctors, tailors, innkeepers, druggists, grocers, and Ulster County government. It was burned at least twice, saw wars and revolution, and survived to tell its tale. To walk through this remarkable building, is to walk through Ulster County's rich local history!

The Persen House functions as Ulster County's Heritage Gateway. Cultural heritage groups from throughout the county guest host at the House each weekend and share their treasure troves of history & culture with visitors. In the 2010 through 2013 tour seasons, the Persen House hosted over 9,900 visitors, including 281 international visitors from 28 different countries.

We look forward to a fun and educational tour season in 2014. Come visit us soon!

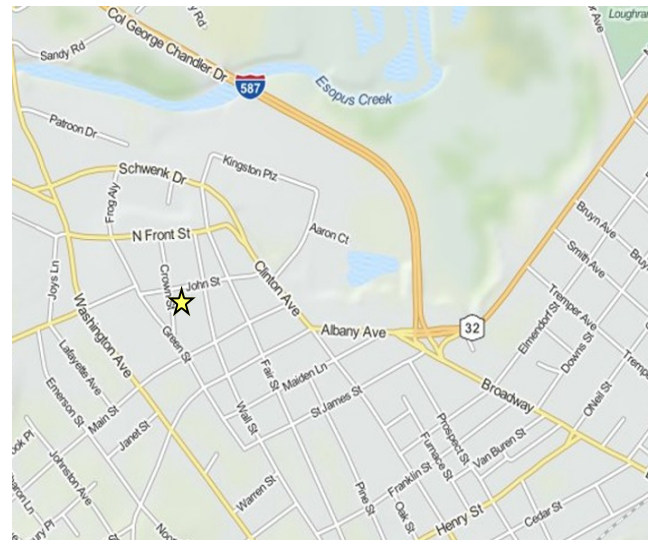
Want to know more about
the Matthewis Persen
House? Simply scan this
QR code!



<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/countyclerk/persenhhouse.html>

Come Visit Us!

74 John Street
Kingston, New York



From the NYS Thruway (I-87): Take exit 19 toward Kingston/Rhinecliff. Enter roundabout and take 2nd exit onto Washington Ave. After a half mile, turn left onto N. Front St. Take the 2nd right onto Crown St. The house is one block down, on the corner of Crown & John Streets.

From the North via 9W or Rt. 32: Take Ulster/Albany Ave. heading southwest past the Rt. 587 intersection. Turn right onto Clinton Ave. Bear left onto N. Front St. Turn left on Crown St. The house is one block down, on the corner of Crown & John Streets.

From the South via Rt. 32: Take Wall St. heading north. After about one mile, turn left onto North Front St. Turn left onto Crown St. The house is one block down, on the corner of Crown & John Streets.

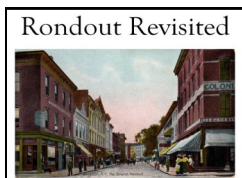
Parking: Metered on-street parking is available throughout the uptown Kingston area. The Ulster County Courthouse has limited availability during the week and is completely available on the weekends. There is also free parking at the Kingston Plaza, less than a half mile walk from the house.



Special Exhibits—All Season



Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk presents *People of Persen—Discovering the Van Imbroch Family*— This 2014 Persen House exhibit looks at the Van Imbroch family (the first family to live in the house), and invites the visitor to join us as we discover who they were, where they went, and why they matter. You will be introduced to Agent 1664 who will guide you through the mystery of discovering the Van Imbroch family. The exhibit will also feature some of the artifacts found in the house that date to the time period of the Van Imbroch's. Did these items belong to the Van Imbroch family and could they have actually been used by them?

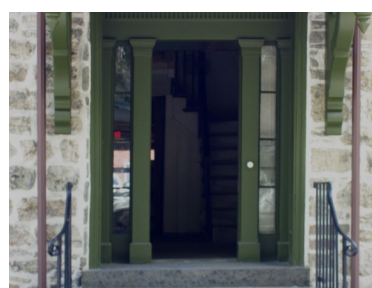


The Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History presents *Rondout Revisited* an exhibit that highlights the three stages in the history of the Rondout in Kingston, New York. This exhibit is located upstairs in the Persen House and is sure to please all. There are many photographs to see! The Reher Center highlights the social and mercantile history of the 19th and early 20th century in the Rondout, Kingston's waterfront.

A Special Month Long Exhibit—October 2014



Ulster County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee—For the 4th year of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the Sesquicentennial Committee will be exhibiting materials pertaining to the service clothing and supplies used during the Civil War with a focus on volunteer units from all branches of the Armed Services. Stop by the House and expand your knowledge of Civil War history! (*Exhibit photo courtesy of Jami Anson.*)



Summer

May 24 Grand Opening of the 2014 Persen House Season – Kingston Cub Scouts Pack 103 and Girl Scouts Daisy Troop 60028—Help throw open the doors and cut the ribbon to kick off the 2014 Season! Pick up a season schedule and join our local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for their community service day at the Persen House. Take one of the first tours of the season with our young citizens as guides. They will offer a unique perspective on the House and its history. It’s sure to be an exciting beginning to the season!

May 31 D&H Canal Historical Society & Museum—Established in 1966 the Society’s mission is to preserve, protect and perpetuate the unique history of the Delaware & Hudson Canal. As part of fulfilling its mission the Society operates their museum in High Falls and maintains the Five Lock Walk, a National Historic Landmark. At the Persen House today, you can meet the society’s president, Bill Merchant, and learn about the fascinating history of the D&H Canal through photographs from their archives and other interesting items from their collections!

June 7 Hudson River Maritime Museum—Join members of the Hudson River Maritime Museum for a celebration of our young artists! The Maritime Museum staff will be featuring a “Children’s Clothesline Art Show” preview. There will also be a special awards ceremony and reception for the teachers, parents and participants. This is sure to be a wonderful day!

June 14 The Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources presents *Smoke Signals and Sacred Fire*—Rev. Jim Davis of the Wittenberg Center will be discussing the origins of smoke signals and their importance in keeping the peace among the First Nations. A welcoming fire will be lit at 12:00 noon in honor of the Lakota Nation and others, traveling to our area for World Peace and Prayer Day (June 19-24).

June 21 Heritage Folk Music—Join members of Heritage Folk Music on the Summer Equinox for a concert at the Persen House between the hours of 10am-2pm. Heritage Folk Music’s mission is to collect, preserve, document, display and interpret the regional and historic folk music, folklore and oral history of New York State, including specifically the Catskill Mountains and Hudson River Valley. This is sure to be a special event, so don’t miss out!

June 28 Ellenville Public Library & Museum presents *Early Days of the Ulster County Fair*—Ellenville Public Library & Museum (EPL&M) houses an extensive local history collection including a treasure trove of images and ephemera from the early days of the Ulster County Fair which was originally held in Ellenville. Join the EPL&M staff as they share this unique and wonderful time in Ulster County’s history through their collection of images and memorabilia.

July 5 Ulster County Clerk’s Office presents *Colonial Game Day*—Nina Postupack, Ulster County Clerk, will be hosting Colonial Game Day where you will participate in games that were popular in the Colonial era. Each game offers a unique history and skill set, whether it is pure entertainment, like Jacob’s ladder or a test of dexterity like Game of Graces. Come in and celebrate America’s independence with us!

July 12 Gomez Mill House—Gomez Mill House is the oldest extant Jewish-built dwelling in North America, and oldest continually occupied house in Orange County on the National Register of Historic Places. Luis Gomez utilized it as a trading post and shelter when he supervised his lumber harvesting and lime quarrying operations. Using our historic owners as examples we teach the children about community, equality, diversity and responsibility.

July 19 The Scions of Patria and Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture—Join members of the Scions of Patria as they re-enact what Dutch life in the 1660s would have looked like. Members will be wearing period dress and demonstrating elements of domestic life. Also, join members of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture as they explain the architecture of the house and how it has changed through the years.

July 26 The Cook Family—Kate Cook and her daughters return to Persen House to guide visitors through the House and share their wealth of knowledge on local restaurants, museums and happenings. Join the Cooks as they guide you through the House and see history through the eyes of our young citizens!

Aug 2 Hurley Heritage Society presents *Under the Reservoir: The Lost Towns*—Please join the Hurley Heritage Society as they share their museum’s current exhibit on the building of the Ashokan Reservoir. Their presentation will feature a video on the towns lost with the creation of the Ashokan Reservoir. The Society will also display pictures of houses, schools and businesses located in those towns.

Aug 9 Plattekill Historical Society presents *Granges and Farms*—The granges started in the early 1900’s. By the 1930’s, there were over 300 active members in the town of Plattekill’s two established granges. Join members of the Historical Society as they discuss and exhibit information on these historic areas in Ulster County.

Aug 16 Historic Huguenot Street—Join HHS and discover the rich history behind the founding of New Paltz. Enjoy a brief lecture from their Director and explore a selection of objects from their permanent collection. Discover how the HHS staff is working to improve and expand the interpretation of the 10-acre National Historic Landmark District, and find out what programs and events you can look forward to experiencing in the near future on Historic Huguenot Street!

Aug 23 1st Ulster Militia—The original 1st Regiment, Ulster County Militia was composed of citizen soldiers from the area now within the boundaries of Kingston, Saugerties and Woodstock. Members promote the education of the public as to military and social life in the colonial and Revolutionary War eras through demonstrations of everyday crafts and skills and the typical life of the militiaman. So join the 1st Ulster Militia as they bring history alive!

Aug 30 Historic Huguenot Street—HHS is back to talk about archaeology on Huguenot Street. Take a look at some of the many artifacts that have been uncovered over the years and talk to one of the site’s archaeologists about the significance of these findings and excavation plans for the future. Find out how you can learn more about archaeology at Historic Huguenot Street through various on-site programs and events that are offered on a regular basis.

Fall

Sept 6 The British Brigade / 16th Queen’s Light Dragoons—The 16th Queen’s Light Dragoon British re-enactors will stage a British Occupation of the Persen House. Red Coats will be everywhere and they will be seeking recruits for the King! There will be musket demonstrations, a recruiting officer and arms & uniforms of the American Revolution. They will also be exhibiting homemade women’s clothing! This exhibit will feature many homemade dresses and the ever-important accessories such as hats, gloves and shoes worn by the women in the 18th century at the time of the Revolution.

Sept 13 Friends of Historic Kingston—Please join volunteers from the Friends of Historic Kingston as they welcome you to this special house tour. The “Friends” will also share their vast knowledge regarding the Uptown and Rondout areas and the Fred J. Johnston House tours. It is always a treat to visit the House when the “Friends” are hosting! You will learn so much and have some fun too!

Sept 20 Reher Bakery Project—Join volunteers from the Reher Center for tours of the Persen House. Learn first hand about some of the high points and challenges faced by Reher Center volunteers in their efforts to restore the historic Reher Bakery Building in the Rondout. The day will also feature a special multimedia presentation based on recent research on the urban renewal years in Rondout by a team of independent researchers to supplement the Reher Center’s exhibit at the Persen House, *Rondout Revisited*, on display for the season in the second floor gallery.

Sept 27 Senate House State Historic Site—Staff and volunteers from Senate House, dressed in 18th century clothing, will demonstrate a variety of fantastic hands-on activities including making corn husk dolls and dried apple wreaths, dipping candles, churning butter and playing 18th century toys and games.

Oct 4 TRANSART presents *Somebody’s Calling My Name Free and Half Free*—A chronology of people of African Descent in the Hudson River Valley of New York State from the earliest arrival in the 1600’s to the first half of the 20th Century. This exhibition and its programs makes a statement about American history and the significance of all its citizens. Join TRANSART as they present a week long series of special events during the week of October 6-10. Please check their website <http://www.transartinc.org/index.html> for more details, and for a listing of events. This is sure to be an exciting and educational event!

Oct 11 Save Native Sites—Join Save Native Sites for a day of excellent programming. Chief Dwaine Perry of the Ramapough-Lunaape tribe will be giving a presentation entitled, "Oppression; the Self-Destruction of Native America".

Oct 18 Ulster County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee—In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Committee will offer a program from 10:00am to 12:00 noon that will focus on the volunteer regiments from Ulster County. The program will feature guest speakers, including re-enactors and individuals portraying Zouave light infantry. Join the Committee for a ceremony of remembrance for all who served at the conclusion of the program.

Oct 25 The Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources presents *Fall Harvest Practices of the Local Native Peoples*—Rev. Jim Davis from the Wittenberg Center will share the harvesting practices of the local native peoples, which has been passed on to him by his Grandfather Davis. The talk will include the importance of preserving food for winter and the origins of the Halloween Jack-o-Lantern! Weather permitting, a demonstration of smoking fish and game may be done as well. This event has been become a Persen House tradition! Please join Jim as he shares Native American traditions through this event.

Nov 1 Red Feather Drummers, Members of the Association of Native Americans of the Mid-Hudson Valley—The Red Feather Drummers invite children of all ages to join them at the House. The group will share Native American storytelling, singing, dancing, crafts & drumming. Come listen to traditional stories that teach respect for others, animals, nature and the earth.

Nov 8 Kingston Land Trust—The Kingston Land Trust is a non-profit organization committed to the protection and preservation of open space, historic sites, wetlands, scenic areas, and forests in the City of Kingston and the surrounding region to include the Town of Ulster and the Town of Kingston. Come in and find out about new rail trails in Kingston. It’s sure to be an exciting day!

Nov 15 Persen House Museum Staff—Join the Persen House Museum Staff at the House on this day and take a self guided tour or a staff tour and learn about the five phases of this House and how the happenings in this house reveal Kingston’s and Ulster County’s rich local history.

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